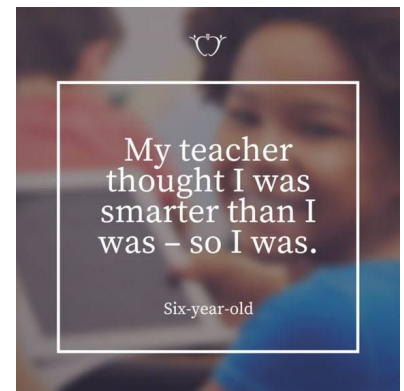


WPS Update

October 2017

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to promote the academic, social, and emotional development of all students to become contributing members of the global community.



Contents:

Superintendent's Message	1
From the Board of Education	2
Family Connections	2
Frisbie School:	3
Wakelee School:	3
Tyrrell Middle School:	4
Wolcott High School:	4
Student Services:	5
Student Learning & Teaching:	6
Business & Operations:	7

Superintendent's Message

Hello Families and Staff Members,

As the cooler months approach, it's important to ensure that your school has up-to-date information on how to reach you on your home phone, cell phone, and email. When school closings, delays, and early dismissals are necessary, our School Messenger service is the quickest and most reliable way for us to get information to you. When we make these decisions, School Messenger is the first place that we post this information. Next, information about changes is shared with TV stations and on our social media pages but these should not be considered your best source. If your contact information has changed, please get in touch with your child's school secretary to make the necessary updates. Thanks for your cooperation.

As you'll read throughout this newsletter, our staff consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to benefit Wolcott's children. Whether it be deep, challenging thinking to write new science curriculum or by volunteering to get taped to a wall or "slimed," WPS teachers and administrators consistently show dedication to their work!

In partnership,

Tony Gasper, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools
agasper@wolcottps.org

From the Board of Education

The October 23, 2017 meeting will mark a milestone for our current Board of Education. Five standing members of the Board have chosen not to run for reelection: Patricia Najarian (32 years of service), Gloria Gubitosi (10 years of service), Kimberly Lumia (8 years of service), Gloria Clair (4 years of service), Arthur Lerz Sr. (4 years of service). All of our Board Members dedicate hundreds of hours, taking time away from their families, to serve the children of Wolcott and we appreciate their dedication. The Board of Education works hard to ensure that all students and teachers have access to the necessary resources to support their work in the classroom and this Board has remained strictly focused on this work.



Family Connections

The first CPEC meeting was held on Wednesday, October 18th. There was a large turnout of families representing all of the PTOs. We had presentations from Mr. Birkenberger in regards to the Blue Ribbon Campaign. We also heard from Chief Stephens and the role Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA) has in our community. The five building administrators shared some recent activities and updates. The next CPEC meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6pm in the Wolcott High School Resource Center. If you have any items that you would like to see added to the agenda please email Deborah Osvald.

For information about CPEC, contact Mrs. Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School: dosvald@wolcottps.org



Alcott School:

On Friday, September 29th Alcott school had a day of celebrations! As a reward all Students were allowed to duct tape Mr. Simpson to the wall for achieving 100% participation in the Governor's Reading Challenge for the sixth year in a row. Every student who attends Alcott was given a strip of duct tape to stick Mr. Simpson to the wall! We are so happy that our students are getting "stuck" on reading! Friday was also Alcott's annual fall festival sponsored by the PTO each class decorated a pumpkin to be raffled off at the festival. Once again we were "wowed" by teachers, students, and parents who showed their amazing talents and creativity. Thank you to everyone for their hard work in making this event a success!



Contact Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott School: ssimpson@wolcottps.org

Frisbie School:

On Friday, September 22nd Frisbie School celebrated the 100% participation on the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge with an outdoor assembly. We unveiled the 100% participation banner and that was followed by a teamwork building activity. Coordinating with the reading theme, Building a Better World, students worked against the wind to build boxes with several different pictures on them. Then, in order to get the bad out of the world we need to get rid of all the slime. So two students from each grade level had an opportunity to slime the principal with condiment bottles filled with shampoo. For the grand finale, Mrs. Murtaugh slid down the slip-n-slide. Each student received a Frisbie key chain for their great job reading during the summer. Thank you to everyone for making this celebration a success.



Contact Kim Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie School: kmurtaugh@wolcottps.org

Wakelee School:

On Friday, September 22nd Wakelee students and staff held a reading celebration. We celebrated the second year of 100% participation in the Governor's Reading Challenge. I would like to thank the Wakelee PTO for donating gift certificates. Each student was given a raffle ticket and one student from each classroom was drawn. Students will be able to use the certificate to purchase books from our school book fair next month. We also spoke to students about setting their reading goals for the school year. We are challenging our k-1 students to read 4,000 minutes and our grades 2-5 students to read 40 books during the course of the school year. Students then paired up with their book buddies for reading and activities. We ended the day with ice cream from an ice cream truck, which worked out nicely for the unseasonably warm weather we had been experiencing.

Contact Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School:
dosvald@wolcottps.org



Tyrrell Middle School:

Tyrrell students have recently had the opportunity to participate in two assemblies presented by special guest speakers. On October 5th, Chris Waddell presented a positive motivational assembly for students in which he shared his story. Mr. Waddell is a 13 time Paralympic medal winner and has appeared on Dateline, 20/20, and Oprah. He is the first paraplegic to climb to the summit area of Mt. Kilimanjaro. He presented his Nametags Educational Program which emphasizes to students: "It's not what happens to you in life. It's what you do with what happens to you" Students were presented with the concept that they have the power to make choices about how they are perceived. In the face of adversity, they can choose resiliency! Students seemed to genuinely enjoy the assemblies in that many students presented Mr. Waddell with questions regarding the



adversity he has overcome as well as some of his post-accident successes.

Grade seven students took part in an assembly with a second guest speaker, Ray Lozano, who presented an empowering anti-alcohol/drug assembly. Mr. Lozano's interactive presentation style kept students engaged and focused on this important topic throughout the assembly. Ray Lozano's message was focused on the physiological and social effects of alcohol on young people. Students seemed genuinely interested and engaged as evidenced by the high level of student participation during the interactive assembly.

The Tyrrell School community would like to thank the Tyrrell PTO, Wolcott CASA, and the Elks Club for working together to make these assemblies a success.

Contact Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School: jnorcross@wolcottps.org

Wolcott High School:

Wolcott High School is committed to helping our students become college and career ready. On Wednesday, September 20, students in Mr. D'Andrea's Anatomy and Physiology class at Wolcott High School learned about medical career options available to students after graduating high school. Following a demonstration by Alexandria Szantyr, an EMT with American Medical Response, students had the opportunity to practice taking someone's blood pressure using a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff (sphygmomanometer). Emma Adduci (photo, above), a senior at the high school, participates in the demonstration. This is just one example of how we are trying to increase student awareness and preparation for careers.



I would also like to pass along a commendation from the Autism Served and Resources of Connecticut organization. WHS student Morgan Mancini arranged a Walk, "Completing the Puzzle" and formed "Team Gillian" and solicited other teams to participate in the walk. Her efforts raised \$7,400. According to ASRC executive director Lois Rosenwald, Morgan "displays marketing and fundraising skills" and wants our community to know "a wonderful and talented student" attends our school. I certainly concur and share this as an example of the many wonderful civic and community activities in which our students engage.

Contact Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School: wdrewry@wolcottps.org

Student Services:

In the Pre-K 4 classroom Alcott's School Psychologist, Amanda Gorton, has been going into the class to do monthly lessons from the social thinking curriculum called We Thinkers! Students are working on skills such as thoughts and feelings as things that we experience but cannot see. Learning these skills help students to stop and think about how they can handle various situations without becoming frustrated and/or angered by choices which other students may make. The first lesson required children to work together to follow the Group Plan, rather than following their own, individual plan to complete a project.

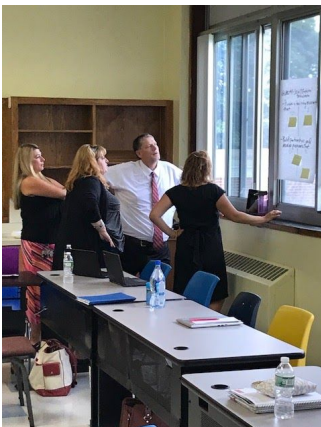


Contact Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services and Alternative Education: khollis@wolcottps.org

Student Learning & Teaching:

The month of October signifies the start of the district's comprehensive professional development calendar. Teachers and administrators are engaging in a wide-variety of learning activities to further develop their knowledge of best instructional practices. The goal of the professional learning plan is to promote continuous district and school improvement by building the collective capacity of all personnel to enhance and support the learning needs of students now and in the future. Below please find a sample of the activities taking place in October:

Elke Blanchard from Literacy How is working with teachers in grades 2 and 3 on foundational reading strategies with a focus on vocabulary development.



Kevin Fleming from ACES is working with science and social studies teachers on the integration of the Next Generation Science Standards and the new CT Social Studies Frameworks into the district's curriculum and classroom lessons.

NEASC Liaison Bill Wehrli is meeting with Wolcott High School staff as they begin their self-study in preparation for a 2019 NEASC accreditation visit.

Tracy Antonioli from I-Ready is working with high school teachers on the interpretation of I-Ready Diagnostic data to differentiate student learning and improve classroom instruction.

District and School-wide data team meetings are successfully underway.

Contact Frank Purcaro, Director of Student Learning and Teaching: fpurcaro@wolcottps.org

Business & Operations:



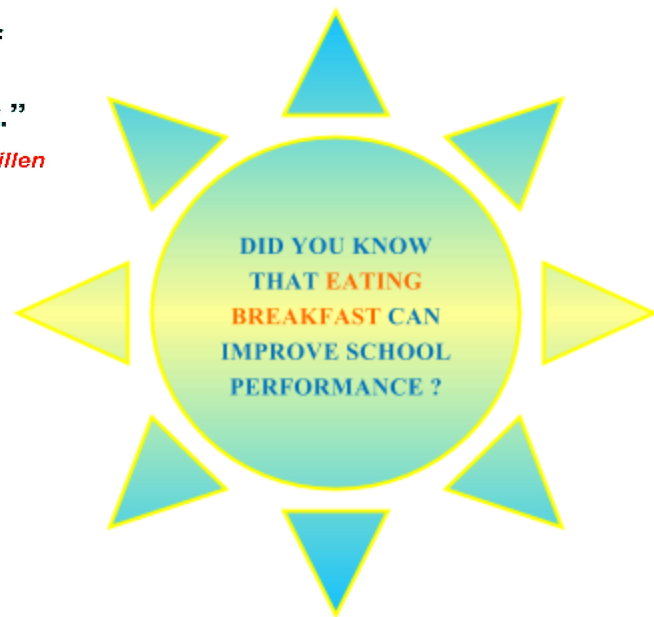
“Students can’t focus if their stomach hurts because they’re hungry.”

—Diane Gillen

School Breakfast Program

Did you know that Wolcott Public School serves breakfast as soon as your child gets off the bus?

Breakfast is served at all schools, before school starts in the café and during study halls at Tyrrell Middle and Wolcott High. The cost of breakfast is \$1.50 full paid, \$.30 reduced students and free for students who qualify.



Research Demonstrates the Importance of Providing Breakfast to Children and Youth



Children who eat a good breakfast tend to:

- ☐ Perform better in school
- ☐ Have better attendance
- ☐ Exhibit fewer behavior problems

In addition, children who eat a good breakfast develop healthy eating habits, visit the school nurse less frequently, and are less likely to be obese.

Despite the benefits of breakfast, for a variety of reasons, many kids aren't able to eat a healthy breakfast at home in the morning.

The School Breakfast Program offers kids a nutritious breakfast at school so they can start their day off right.



Contact Food Services Director Eileen Girgenti: egirgenti@wolcottps.org

